

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00
USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 DODE-00 L-03 AGRE-00
EB-07 HEW-04 IOE-00 /096 W
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P R 061548Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7980
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4471

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA
SUBJECT: UN/LAOS NARCOTICS DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 4190; (B) STATE 124390; (C) GENEVA 4090

SUMMARY: INCB SECRETARY IS TAKING POSITION ON LAOTIAN
OPIUM EXPORTS WHICH IS LIKELY TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. UNFDAC
IS APPROACHING DECISION ON MACKENZIE RECOMMENDATION FOR
PROGRAM IN LAOS. END SUMMARY.

1. LAOTIAN OPIUM EXPORTS. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MISSION
OFFICER JUNE 3, INCB SECRETARY STEP CZYNSKI GAVE FOLLOWING
ANALYSIS HIS POSITION THIS TOPIC. HE FIRST STATED HIS
UNDERSTANDING THAT LPDR HOLDS LARGE BUT INDEFINITE AMOUNTS
OF OPIUM; HE HAS HEARD ESTIMATES VARYING FROM 30 TONS TO 60
TONS TO 200 TONS. HE NOTED THAT LPDR HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN EXPORTING THREE AND A HALF TONS TO BULGARIA AND HAS LOOKED
INTO PROCEDURES FOR ACCOMPLISHING SUCH EXPORT UNDER
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ARTICLE 24 OF SINGLE CONVENTION. HE WENT ON TO
OBSERVE THAT IF THE OPIUM IN QUESTION HAD BEEN SEIZED,
ARTICLE 24 (5B) WOULD PERMIT ITS EXPORT WITHOUT NEED
FOR PERMISSION FROM INCB OR ECOSOC.

2. MR. STEP CZYNSKI THEN STATED HIS OPINION THAT THIS
OPIUM HAD PROBABLY BEEN SEIZED, BY REVOLUTIONARIES

FROM CULTIVATORS DURING COURSE OF WAR AND BY TAKEOVER OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S STOCKS WHEN REVOLUTIONARIES CAME TO POWER. HE FURTHER EXPRESSED OPINION THAT INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY EXPORT OF THIS OPIUM FOR LEGITIMATE USES ASAP, ON GROUNDS THAT MAINTENANCE OF THIS OPIUM IN LAOS WOULD RENDER IT SUBJECT TO DIVERSION TO ILLICIT TRAFFIC, AND WOULD SERVE AS INCENTIVE TO LPDR TO CONSTRUCT DOMESTIC PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY. HE THOUGHT LATTER POSSIBILITY WAS PARTICULAR DANGER WHICH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST COMBAT. HE THEREFORE EXPRESSED HIS JUDGEMENT THAT BOARD POSITION SHOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE PROMPT EXPORT OF LPDR STOCKS OF "SEIZED" OPIUM.

3. MISSION OFFICER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER HIS POSITION, POINT-

ING OUT POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHEREBY ANY COUNTRY COULD CLAIM OPIUM WAS SEIZED AND THEN EXPORT IT. STEP CZYNSKI ACKNOWLEDGED THIS POSSIBILITY, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS DEFECT OF SINGLE CONVENTION TO OMIT TERM OF 1953 CONVENTION WHICH AUTHORIZED BOARD TO LOOK INTO BONA FIDES OF SEIZURES.

4. MISSION OFFICER OBSERVED THAT IF LPDR DID HAVE STOCKS OF SEIZED OPIUM, INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY THEIR DESTRUCTION. STEP CZYNSKI REPLIED THAT LAOS IS POOR COUNTRY WHICH COULD NOT AFFORD TO WASTE THIS ASSET, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT NOW HAS A BUYER (BULGARIA) FOR SOME OF IT.

5. MISSION HAS CONFIRMED THAT STEP CZYNSKI DID NOT RAISE
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THIS POLICY QUESTION WITH BOARD AT ITS RECENT MEETING.

6. COMMENT: MISSION HAS DEEP MISGIVINGS ABOUT STANCE OF BOARD SECRETARY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USG ESTIMATES OF AMOUNTS OPIUM HELD BY LPDR AND EVALUATION WHETHER LPDR STOCKS WERE REALLY "SEIZED". EVEN IF STEP CZYNSKI'S ASSUMPTIONS CORRECT, WE WOULD CONSIDER EXPORT OF THESE STOCKS TO INVOLVE DANGER OF WHETTING LPDR APPETITE TO ENTER OPIUM EXPORTING BUSINESS AND OF STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC LPDR VESTED INTERESTS IN OPIUM PRODUCTION AND EXPORT, BOTH AT VARIANCE WITH ANNOUNCED POLICY OF COMPLETELY ELIMINATING OPIUM CULTIVATION. SHOULD LPDR EVER APPROACH ECOSOC FOR PERMISSION TO EXPAND OPIUM, WE ANTICIPATE THAT IT WOULD HAVE SUPPORT OF OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WOULD WIN APPROVAL, THEREBY ESTABLISHING HARMFUL PRECEDENT.

7. MISSION THEREFORE BELIEVES EFFORTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE LAOTIAN OPIUM EXPORTS. WE HAVE DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT INCB WILL BE EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR THIS PURPOSE AT

PRESENT. NORMAL RECOURSE WOULD BE FROM BOARD SECRETARY TO BOARD PRESIDENT, BUT LATTER IS CURRENTLY EMBROILED IN INTERNAL BOARD PROBLEMS TO EXTENT THAT APPROACH TO HIM NOW WOULD NOT, IN MISSION'S VIEW, BE PRODUCTIVE. END COMMENT.

8. PROPOSED UNFDAC/LAOS PROGRAM. ON JUNE 3, MISSION OFFICER REPEATED TO UNFDAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS POINTS REF B PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED TO HIS DEPUTY, MR. WELLMAN. DE BEUS IS IN PROCESS OF REACHING DECISION ON MACKENZIE RECOMMENDATIONS ((REF C) AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US VIEWS. HE STATED THAT IN ANY PROGRAM AGREEMENT, UNFDAC WOULD REQUIRE REAFFIRMATION OF LPDR POLICY CONCERNING ERADICATION OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION. SORENSON

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